

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-20, 22 and 23 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 19, 20, 22 and 23 are independent. Claim 21 has been canceled, and claims 22 and 23 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document (as indicated in the previous Office Action dated March 28, 2005).

Information Disclosure Citation

It is respectfully noted an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed on October 19, 2005. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested an initialed PTO Form 1449 indicating acknowledgement of the references cited therein be issued in the next Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating claims 22 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and for allowing claims 1-4, 6 and 9-20. In light of this indication, dependent claims 22 and 23 have been rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Bolin is moot and the claims are allowable.

Further, it is respectfully requested this amendment be entered as the amendments place the application into condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all

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presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

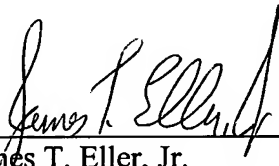
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone David A. Bilodeau, Registration No. 42,325 at (703) 205-8072.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 12, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

James T. Eller, Jr.

Registration No.: 39,538

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd Suite

100 East P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant